

Russia. We have wavered. We have ignored reality. We have pretended things are not what they are and we have allowed Russian entities to get away with deliberate violations of arms control treaties that have undermined the confidence of the Congress in terms of a new treaty we would enter into, and that is a real sorrowful situation.

So I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that this administration and the President and his team would reach out in the last 3 weeks before the Moscow trip to the Congress to bring in Republican and Democrat leaders, to have a full and open debate and dialogue about where we are going with Russia; not to do something in secret, not to have some grand announcement, where he attempts to capture the imagination of the American people to restore a failed foreign policy legacy and not to boost Al Gore's campaign and give him an edge on defense issues.

If the President does not do that, Mr. Speaker, then this Congress will not support anything that the President negotiates and, unfortunately, we will again create more of a lack of confidence on the Russian side as to what our intentions are in our relationship.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I have encouraged the President to move away from the whole theory of mutually assured deterrence where we basically dare each other to attack and build up these large missiles to attack each other and move toward what I call asymmetric deterrence, where we continue to negotiate with the Russians decreases in our offensive weapons but begin to allow in those negotiations strategic defensive systems as well, so that we focus on defending our people as opposed to threatening to attack the other side.

Mr. Speaker, if this President wants to change the legacy that he has made for himself, the best thing he could do would be to go to Moscow with a bipartisan approach. In fact, I would go even one step further, Mr. Speaker. I would implore the President in this, an election year, to invite Governor George Bush and Vice President Al Gore in to let each of them share in any negotiation that takes place in Moscow, because President Clinton is not going to get anything ratified that he does in Moscow, number one, because of the legacy of the failed arms control practices of the past 7½ years but, two, just because of the time involved.

The President will go in June. We will be in session the rest of June and July. We will break in August, come back in September. No arms control agreement has ever been ratified that quickly by a Senate, and the President knows that. So he will not have to get the support of the Congress in the next session. It will be either Al Gore or George W. Bush.

So my advice to the President would be, bring in Republicans and Demo-

crats, Mr. Speaker; have an honest discussion with us about our approach with the Russians; clear up the START II treaty; get rid of those two protocols that were never a part of the START II treaty that the Senate ratified in 1993 and bring in George W. Bush along with Al Gore and involve both of them in any discussions with the Russians, because if the President does not, Mr. Speaker, if he does not do that then we could only read his intent as being purely political; purely political because the President knows that his only attempt would be to, one, change his own legacy and, two, bolster Al Gore's campaign and not to a sincere effort to get this country's legislative bodies to ratify a substantive agreement with Russia, because if that were the case the President would involve this Congress and he would involve George W. Bush in this process before he goes to Moscow.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to convey their concerns, as I will be doing.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4425, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. DREIER (during the special order of Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-618) on the resolution (H. Res. 502) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4425) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001 and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, a few years back I was privileged, along with my Asian Pacific colleagues on Capitol Hill, to attend a special White House ceremony where President Clinton signed an official proclamation declaring May, this month, as it is true each year, as National Asia Pacific Heritage Month.

Tomorrow, my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD), who is currently the chairman of our Congressional Asian Pacific Caucus, along with our other colleagues, will hold a special order commemorating the month of May which honors Asian Pacific Americans.

I commend and thank the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) for his

strong leadership of the Congressional Asian Pacific Caucus, which he has brought to the forefront and addressed many of the critical issues facing our Nation.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I will not be able to participate in the special order tomorrow, as I have a prior commitment to give an Asian Pacific American Heritage Month speech at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and then at Fort Hood, Texas, this coming weekend.

On that note, Mr. Speaker, I have just returned from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and Fort Sam Houston, Texas, where last week I delivered addresses to our service men and women at their Asia Pacific Heritage Month programs.

I certainly want to extend my deepest appreciation to Major General William Boykin of the U.S. Army Special Forces headquarters and Brigadier General Thomas Turner of the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne, both groups at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and also my good friend Major General James Peake, the commanding general at Fort Sam Houston, for their warm and gracious hospitality and the courtesies that were extended to me when I visited them earlier this month.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to be here tonight to share with our great Nation a legacy of those Americans whose roots extend from the soils of nations in the Asia and Pacific region. Mr. Speaker, the Asian Pacific region is a dynamic area of the world where two-thirds of the world's population reside. Our Nation's trade with the Asian Pacific region is almost twice of any other region, including Europe.

I recall Senator DANIEL INOUYE of Hawaii once elaborated or illustrated our trade with the Asian Pacific region and Europe in this fashion, he once made the comment that for every one or single 747 that flies between the Atlantic and the East Coast of our Nation four 747s fly between the Asian and Pacific region to our country.

Asians, or Americans of Asian Pacific descent, over 10.5 million strong, are among the fastest growing demographic groups in the United States today. Over the last decade, the Asian Pacific American community has more than doubled and this rapid growth is expected to continue in the 21st century. By 2050 the Asian Pacific American population is projected to exceed 40 million people.

As many of my colleagues are aware, the immigrants of the Asian Pacific countries are amongst the newest wave to arrive in the United States in recent years. However, they are merely the latest chapter in a long history of Asian Pacific Americans in our Nation.

During this time of celebration, Mr. Speaker, it is only fitting that we honor our fellow citizens of Asian Pacific descent both from the past and the present that have blessed and enriched our Nation. I submit that Asian